

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is enclosed and has been amended to include the legend

- Prior Art -

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application. In an Office Action dated October 4, 2004, the Examiner objected to Figure 1 for lack of a “prior art” label, and rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,754,855 (“Miller”) in view of applicant-admitted prior art. Applicant’s representative respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claims 1-20.

Claim 1 is discussed, below, as representative of the claims rejected over Miller. Claim 1 is provided, below, for the Examiner’s convenience.

1. (original) A method for reporting events stored in an event log within an electronic device, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a report of events of a specified type from a specified requestor;

searching for a *watermark event* related to the specified event type and specified requestor;

when a related watermark event is found, using a value stored within the watermark to select an event at which to begin searching the event log for events of the specified type to report to the specified requestor;

when a related *watermark event* is not found, selecting a default event at which to begin searching the event log for events of the specified type to report to the specified requestor; and

searching the event log starting at the selected event to find and report events of the specified type. (emphasis added)

As described in the current application, including the Summary of the Invention section, beginning on line 27 of page 3, various embodiments of the invention discussed in the current application are directed to methods and systems for reporting errors stored in an event log within electronic devices lacking easily programmable software control and extensive RAM memories. As described in the Background of the Invention section of the current application, reporting errors from event logs to multiple, remote recipients can be problematic. Event logs may be overrun, because of small event-log buffers, events may be reported multiple times to a particular recipient, and events generally cannot be selectively reported. The event logs are typically stored in EEPROM, rather than in RAM memory, and are constructed and maintained by relatively low complexity

firmware or logic circuits within the electronic device. In order to overcome many of the problems associated with event logs, certain embodiments of the present invention employ a new type of event that can be inserted, along with common events, referred to as a "watermark event," and discussed in the current application beginning on line 4 of page 18. The watermark event may include an offset field and may contain additional fields that may relate the watermark event to a specific recipient of event reports as well as to a specific type of event. The offset field of a watermark event may be used to indicate a position within the event log from which to begin returning events to a recipient. Thus, when a recipient receives a set of events from the event log, a watermark can be inserted into the event log, preventing the already received events from again being reported to the recipient. Claim 1 clearly includes a watermark event element that is clearly claimed to include using a "value stored within the watermark to select an event at which to begin searching the event log for events of the specified type to report to the specified requestor."

Applicant's representative has carefully read Miller, and has very carefully read the sections of Miller cited by the Examiner, and can find no similarity between the event processing method and system described in Miller and the event-log-reporting method and system to which the current application is directed. Miller's method and system are related to processing events contained in stack frames on an invocation stack generally maintained in RAM memory within a high-end computer system. Miller's method is directed to associating user-specified, language-specific event-processing procedures and routines with events contained in selected stack frames. (Miller, abstract) For example, as discussed in the abstract of Miller, if an event is a specific language-processing event, and the user has registered a particular language-processing procedure for the event, the event is associated with the procedure and is processed by the procedure according to Miller's system and method. Applicant's representative respectfully observes that processing events in invocation stacks is completely unrelated to reporting errors from error logs.

The Examiner references sections of column 9, 10, and 13 as teaching "searching for a watermark event related to the specified event type and specified

requestor.” Applicant’s representative has carefully read and re-read these cited sections, and has not been able to find a single reference to the term “watermark,” or to any concept or term related to the term “watermark,” as used in the current application. The cited section of column 9 discusses the fact that a user of Miller’s system may specify a particular event handler for particular events that are stored in stack frames. Applicant’s representative respectfully observes that event handlers, stack frames, and invocation stacks are not mentioned anywhere in claim 1 or in the current application, and are not related to the event logs to which the current application is directed. The cited section in column 10 discusses that, when a routine detects an event, the event is processed according to an applicable language-specific event-processing procedure. In the current application, events from event logs are reported to requesting entities. Associating processing procedures with language-specific events is unrelated to reporting events from an event log.

The cited section of column 13 discusses how an event processing manager selects a stack frame from an active invocation stack, the active invocation stack associated with the thread that contains the routine and that detected the event. The event processing manager selects the stack frame at the top of the active invocation stack. *Although selecting a stack frame from an active invocation stack is unrelated to reporting events from event logs, the fact that a first stack frame on the stack is always selected actually teaches away from the watermark method to which claim 1 is directed.* The watermark provides a method for beginning a search of errors stored in an error log at an arbitrary location indicated by information stored within the watermark. The cited section of column 13, by contrast, indicates that the processing manager always begins with the first stack frame on the active invocation stack for a thread. In other words, this cited section of Miller indicates a single, standard order for processing events, while the watermark in the current application is designed to avoid reporting errors from any particular point in an error log. Again, however, it should be emphasized that reporting errors is unrelated to associating stack frames with threads.

The examiner references various portions of column 8 and column 13 as teaching using a value stored within a watermark to select an event from which to begin

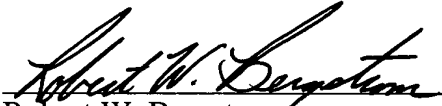
searching for events in the event log. Again, Applicant's representative can find no mention or suggestion of watermarks or watermark-related concepts in any of these cited sections. The cited portion of column 8 discusses a qualifying data pointer that points to information related to particular types of events. This appears to be completely unrelated to searching for events within an event log. The qualifying data pointer is not stored in a watermark, and is not used as a starting point for a search. The cited portions of column 13 discuss how, in Miller's system, a registration process operates to inform a processing manager of processing procedures associated with events in each stack frame of an active invocation stack. Again, this appears to be unrelated to selecting a search point for searching an event log. The second portion of column 13 discusses how a processing manager processes events using event processing procedures registered for the event. Again, association of event processing routines with events is unrelated to searching an event log for events to report.

The Examiner refers to a portion of column 2 as teaching that the event log is searched for events from a default location when a watermark is not found. The cited portion of column 2 discusses how, in Miller's system, a default event processing routine is called for an event for which a processing routine has not been registered by a user. Again, Applicant's representative respectfully observes that associating event-processing routines with events is unrelated to searching an event log for events to report to a requesting entity.

Applicant's representative respectfully urges the Examiner to read the Summary of the Invention section of the current application, the discussion of the watermark-based event reporting technique to which claim 1 is directed in the current application beginning on line 4 of page 18, and perhaps the Background of the Invention section as well, in order to fully appreciate the subject matter to which the current claims are directed. The watermark event is clearly claimed in independent claims 1 and 14, and is therefore included in dependent claims 2-13 and 15-20. Miller neither teaches, mentions, nor suggests a watermark event, or methods based on watermark events. In Applicant's representative's opinion, all of the claims in the current application are clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

The application is now clearly in order for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures:

Postcards (2)
Transmittal in duplicate
Drawing Transmittal
One sheet of drawing (Fig. 1)

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